AN ACT

For taking and receiving the

ACCOMPTS

OF THE

Commonwealth.

With Instructions concerning the same.

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With Instructions concerning the same.

THE Parliament of *England* now assembled, taking into their Consideration that divers sums of Money, Plate and Goods have been raised and received of the People of the Nation, for which no Accompts have been yet rendred for publique satisfaction: And thinking it very necessary, That all and every the Collectors and Receivers of such Money, Plate,

Plate and Goods, ſhould make a perfect Accompt of all the ſaid particulars, Do Enact and Ordain, and be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by the Authority of the ſame Parliament, That the perſons hereafter named, that is to ſay, *Richard Wilcox*, *Thomas Richardſon*, *Nicholas Bond*, *Henry Brood*, *Matthias Valentine*, *John Greenſmith*, *Edward Fielder*, *John Uſſlet*, *Henry Robinſon*, *William Maddiſon*, and *Pierce Robinſon*, or any five or more of them, ſhall be a Committee for taking and receiving the Publique Accompts of the Common-wealth. And becauſe ſeveral Orders and Ordinances of Parliament have been formerly made and publiſhed, for taking Accompts, particularly an Ordinance, entituled, *An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament*,

Parliament for Taking and receiving the Accompts of the whole Kingdom, dated the two and twentieth of *February*, 1643. and one other explanatory Ordinance of the eleventh of *July*, 1644. and also another additional Ordinance of the six and twentieth of *June*, 1645. Be it, and it is hereby further Declared and Enacted, that all Committees named in any such Order or Ordinance, and all Sub-Committees by them named and appointed, shall be, and hereby are discharged from their service herein; And are hereby required, upon demand of the Committee herein named, to deliver up all their books of accompts, writings, Vouchers, Inventories, Appraisments, Rentals, and all other evidences and papers whatsoever, which are in their or any of their custodies, or in the hands of any other person or persons by their order or appointment, and do any way relate to the Publique accompts

compts of the Common-wealth. And it is further *Ordained* and Enacted, that the Committee herein named, shall be, and hereby are enabled and authorized to put the said *Orders, Ordinances*, and all and every clause and clauses therein contained, or so much of them as they shall think fit, in execution, with as full and ample Power and Authority, to all intents and purposes, as the Committees therein named, or any of them are enabled to do: Provided, that this following clause be added to the *Oath* which is to be taken by every person which shall enter upon this service.

Nor wittingly, willingly, or causlesly molest or trouble any person to his prejudice, and for his vexation, under the pretence or colour of the Authority committed unto me by the Parliament.

And for the better taking and expediting the said accompts, Be it, and it is hereby fur-

further Declared and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That such person or persons within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and the Liberties thereof, as shall find themselves any way chargeable or accomptable to the Common-wealth, shall within two and forty dayes after the Printing and publishing of this Act, deliver unto the Committee herein named, a true and perfect account, fairly written, and subscribed with their names, of all Moneyes and other things whatsoever, with which they now are, or heretofore have been chargeable or accountable, to the use of the Common-wealth: And all other persons within this Nation, and the Dominion of *Wales*, who are yet accountable as aforesaid, shall deliver in their Accompts fairly written and subscribed as aforesaid, to the said Committee,

mittee, within six months next insuing the Printing and publishing of this Act, unless this Committee shall in the mean time appoint other persons to receive the same: All which accompts shall be brought and delivered in at the Office for accompts, situate and being in *Worcester-house*. Provided, that if any person shall come and make it appear to the Committee, upon just and Lawful reasons, that his accompts cannot be brought in within such time as aforesaid, then such persons shall be allowed some convenient time, with respect to the length of his accompt, as to the Committee shall seem meet. Provided also, that if any person hath duly and truly past his accompts with, and received his discharge from Parliament, or other persons Authorized thereunto, then such person is hereby required to bring in his

his Acquittances and Diſcharges onely, to the Committee, within the time before limited, to the end they may be there taken notice of, and Regiſtred. Provided alſo, That if any perſon or perſons have delivered in a juſt and perfect Accompt to the former Committee of Accompts, or to any other perſon or perſons authorized by Parliament to receive the ſame, and have not received a Diſcharge therein, Then and in ſuch caſe the Committee herein named, or any five or more of them, ſhall conſider of the ſame Accompts ſo delivered in formerly; and if they find them to be juſt and true, then to give a ful diſcharge and acquittance to ſuch perſon or perſons for the ſame, by Authority of this preſent Act of Parliament. And it is further Enacted, That if any perſon or

perſons at the time of Publication of this preſent Act, ſhall have any ſum or ſums of money remaining in his or their hands, upon any accompts hereafter to be examined and determined, and ſhall forthwith make payment of the ſame unto the Treaſurers hereafter named, it ſhall be allowed unto him or them upon the determination of his or their accompts; and in the mean time the Acquittances of the ſaid Treaſurers ſhall be to them and every of them a plenary and ſufficient diſcharge. And it is further Declared and Enacted, That whoſoever ſhall after the time aforeſaid given for making and bringing in accompts, diſcover by the Oaths of two credible witneſſes, That any Perſon or Perſons, who according to this Act ought to be accomptable, hath not within

in the time before-mentioned given in his accompt, or appeared before the ſaid Committee to deſire time ſo to do; or having given in his accompts, That the ſaid Perſon or Perſons had any ſum or ſums of money remaining thereupon, and not paid in according to this Act; or that he or they had received more money or other things then is acknowledged upon his or their accompts, then every ſuch Perſon, who upon due proof and examination before the ſaid Committee, ſhall be found faulty in the premiſes, ſhall forfeit to the uſe and benefit of the Common-wealth, one full fifth part of the money and other things ſo concealed, over and above the ſum due from the ſaid Perſon; which fifth part the Committee herein named are Authorized to Levy upon the eſtate Real

and Perſonal of ſuch Perſons: And every ſuch Diſcoverer, if he be a Perſon to whom the Parliament is engaged for arrears of pay as a Soldier, or for money or other things upon the publique Faith, ſhall receive his arrears or Debt due from the Common-wealth, out of the ſum ſo diſcovered: Provided it exceed not one third part of the value brought in; and if ſuch Diſcoverer ſhall not have any money due as aforeſaid, then he or they ſhall have and receive for his charges and paines, one fifth part of the moneys or other things ſo diſcovered as aforeſaid: Provided, That ſuch diſcovery or ſurcharge be made within two years from the making and publiſhing of this preſent Act. Be it further Enacted, that all perſons, who under pretence of Authority from the late

late King, or any acting under him, have levyed or received Moneys upon any persons of *England* or *Wales*, by way of assess, or otherwise, be and are comprehended in this Act, to the end they may be brought to accompt by the persons named in this Act, and in the same manner as is therein expressed; and that all such persons shall make a just accompt how these moneyes have been disposed of, to the end that what moneyes do appear to remain in their hands, may be disposed of to the relief of the persons from whom they have been taken, or otherwise as the Parliament shall think fit. And it is also Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several sum and sums of money brought in and raised by force and vertue of this present Act, shall be paid by Order of the said Committee, and not otherwise, unto *Nathanael Stirrop*, and Lieutenant Colonel *George*

Crompton of *Weſtminſter*, who are hereby nominated and appointed Treaſurers for the ſame; All which moneyes (ſuch Salaries being firſt allowed and paid unto the ſeveral Officers imployed by the ſaid Committee, and ſuch other incident charges, as the ſaid Committee ſhall find neceſſary in the execution of this Service, whoſe VVarrant ſhal be a ſufficient diſcharge to the Treaſurers for payment of the ſame) ſhall be iſſued out, and diſpoſed of for the ſervice of the Commonwealth, and not otherwiſe, by Order of Parliament. Provided, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Treaſurers, to deduct one penny in every Twenty ſhillings value of ſuch money as ſhall be paid unto them, for and towards their Charge and Paines in the execution of this ſervice.

INSTRUCTIONS

For the Grand Committee for taking and receiving the Accompts of the Common wealth, according to an Act of this preſent Parliament.

I.

FIrſt, you are to examine the Accompts of all perſons whatſoever, who are any way accomptable, according to this Act, ſince the third day of November, *One thouſand ſix hundred and forty, unto this time, and ſo forward, until it ſhall be otherwiſe Ordered and Enacted by Parliament.*

II.

Secondly, you are upon the examination of any Accompt, to keep the Vouchers and Proofs relating thereunto; and in caſe you find a real Diſcharge, ſuch as you ſhall approve, you are then to paſſ ſuch Accompts, without any further trouble or examination of the Accomptants, and to certifie the ſame, if you ſhall be thereunto deſired: And in caſe upon the examination of any Accompts, you ſhall find them perfectly and faithfully cleared, you are then to give the Accomptants a full and abſolute Diſcharge under your hands, which ſhall hereafter be good and valid, to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever.

III.

Thirdly, you are to cauſe the Accompts of each City, County or other place, to be Printed ſeverally, or ſo much thereof as you ſhall think fit, for the ſatisfaction of the Commmon-wealth: And you are to give liberty to any perſon, to receive a Tranſcript or Extract of any Accompt, if he ſhall deſire the ſame, for which the Officer that takes paines therein, ſhall and may take ſuch allowance as is given

by

by any former Ordinances of Parliament made in that behalf.

IV

Fourthly, in case any person or persons accomptable according unto this Act, be already deceased, or shall decease before the determination of his or their Accompts, Then you are to cause such Accompts to be prosecuted to a determination by the Heyrs, Executors or Administrators of such person or persons so accomptable.

V.

Lastly, In case you shall find out any person or persons that have notoriously defrauded the Common-wealth, you are to return the names of such person & persons to the Parliament, or such as they shall appoint to receive the same, That such exemplary Punishment may be inflicted upon them, proportionable to their Offences, as the Parliament in their wisdoms shall think meet.

Provided alwayes, that this Act, or any thing therein contained, shal not extend to the taking of any Accompts, which by the Law are to be taken and passed in the Court of the publique Exchequer.

Die Jovis, 11 Octobr. 1649.

Ordered by the COMMONS assembled in PARLIAMENT, That this Act be forthwith Printed and published.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.